

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a complete list of claims. The claims below replace all prior versions of the claims in the application. Please amend claims 3 – 8, 19 – 25, 28 and 31. Please cancel claims 1, 2, 18 and 32 – 43. Please add new claims 44 – 49.

1. Canceled
2. Canceled
3. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 19 ~~2~~-wherein the interface is capable of facilitating ~~operable to facilitate~~ the exchange of fuel between one or more of the vessel's systems frame and the mission module.
4. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 19 ~~2~~-wherein the interface is capable of facilitating ~~operable to facilitate~~ the exchange of water between one or more of the vessel's systems frame and the mission module.
5. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 19 ~~2~~-wherein the interface is capable of facilitating ~~operable to facilitate~~ the exchange of personnel between one or more of the vessel's systems ~~the frame~~ and the mission module.
6. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 19 ~~2~~-wherein the interface is capable of facilitating ~~operable to facilitate~~ the exchange of electrical power between one or more of the vessel's systems frame and the mission module.
7. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 19 ~~2~~-wherein the interface is capable of facilitating ~~operable to facilitate~~ transmission of electronic communication signals between one or more of the vessel's systems frame and the mission module.
8. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 19 further comprising ~~wherein the multi-mode hull comprises a foil-assisted twin-hull.~~
9. – 18. Canceled

19. (Currently Amended) A water vessel system, comprising
- ~~a vessel having a multi-mode hull operable to allow the vessel to move through water in at least two of the following operational modes: a logistics mode in which the vessel's draft is nine feet or less, a catamaran mode in which the vessel's draft is deeper than nine feet and less than or equal to twelve feet, a SWATH mode in which the vessel's draft is deeper than twelve feet and less than or equal to twenty feet, and a low-freeboard mode in which the vessel's draft is deeper than twenty feet;~~
 - a mission module configured to contain specialized equipment, supplies and resources for performing a specific mission, and to be coupled with one or more systems of the vessel to allow access to the equipment, supplies and resources, wherein while the mission module is coupled with the vessel's one or more systems, the module's equipment, supplies and resources enable the vessel to perform the specific mission, and while the mission module is not coupled with the vessel's one or more systems, the vessel is not enabled to perform the specific mission; and
 - a bay capable of receiving the mission module and including:
 - an interface capable of releasably coupling the equipment, supplies and resources of the mission module with one or more of the vessel's systems, and
 - a mounting structure capable of releasably holding the mission module in the bay while the mission module is coupled with the bay's interface. disposed in the vessel; and
 - ~~a mission module disposed in the bay and operable to provide mission-specific functionality to the vessel while disposed in the bay.~~
20. (Currently Amended) The vessel system of claim 19 wherein the mission module is configured for a single mission. ~~to perform anti-mine warfare.~~
21. (Currently Amended) The vessel system of claim 19 wherein the mission module contains equipment, supplies and resources for performing one of the following

missions: a mine hunting mission, an anti-submarine mission, a special-operation mission, and an intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance mission. ~~is configured to perform littoral anti-submarine warfare.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The vessel system of claim 19 wherein the mission module is configured to contain all the specialized equipment, supplies and resources for performing a specific mission. ~~perform special operation support.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The vessel system of claim 19 wherein the mission module includes at least one of the following, a weapons turret and an antenna, mounted to the module's structure and exposed for use while the module is releasably held in the vessel's bay. ~~is configured to perform logistics support.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The vessel system of claim 19 further comprising a ramp capable of supporting a mission module as the module is moved into the bay. ~~wherein the mission module is configured to perform a maritime intercept function.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The vessel system of claim 19 further comprising a monohull. ~~wherein the mission module is configured to perform an intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance function.~~

26. Canceled

27. Canceled

28. (Currently Amended) The vessel system of claim 19 wherein the vessel comprises a sailing ship.

29. Canceled

30. Canceled

31. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 19 further comprising a multihull. ~~wherein the multi-mode hull includes the frame.~~

32. – 43. Canceled

44. (New) A method for performing a specific mission, the method comprising:

receiving a mission module in a bay of a vessel, the mission module configured to contain specialized equipment, supplies and resources for the vessel to perform the specific mission;

releasably holding the mission module in the bay with a mounting structure of the vessel; and

releasably coupling the specialized equipment, supplies and resources of the mission module with one or more systems of the vessel to allow access to the equipment, supplies and resources, wherein while the module's equipment, supplies and resources are coupled with one or more of the vessel's systems the vessel is able to perform the specific mission, and while the module's equipment, supplies and resources are not coupled with the vessel's systems the vessel is not able to perform the specific mission.

45. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein receiving the mission module in the bay includes extending a ramp from the vessel and moving the mission module into the bay via the ramp.
46. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising loading the mission module from a pier at a port.
47. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising:
 - floating a mission module near the vessel; and
 - placing the mission module on the ramp.
48. (New) The method of claim 44 further comprising removing the mission module from the bay.
49. (New) The method of claim 48 further comprising:
 - removing the mission module from the bay;
 - receiving a second mission module in the bay of the vessel, the second mission module configured to contain specialized equipment, supplies and resources for the vessel to perform the specific mission;

releasably holding the second mission module in the bay with the mounting structure of the vessel; and

releasably coupling the specialized equipment, supplies and resources of the second mission module with one or more systems of the vessel to allow access to the equipment, supplies and resources, wherein while the second module's equipment, supplies and resources are coupled with one or more of the vessel's systems the vessel is able to perform the specific mission, and while the second module's equipment, supplies and resources are not coupled with the vessel's systems the vessel is not able to perform the specific mission.